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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A group work control system for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps for developing semiconductor devices through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line, said group work control system comprising:

a file generator which is connected to said network and configured to generate a schedule file in which the schedule of said work steps is written;

a database which is configured to store said schedule file in order that said schedule file is accessible through said network; and

a group work cooperation section comprising:

a schedule displaying section for obtaining the schedule file and displaying said schedule in each of the terminals;

a work flow displaying section for displaying work items to be conducted in the respective work steps based on said schedule file, judging whether or not previous works of the displayed work items have been finished, and displaying an alternative work flow if the previous works have not yet been finished;

a tool executing section for accessing a predetermined storage device and executing working tools required for the work items if the previous works have been finished; and

a guide displaying section for displaying a guide to the respective works and application programs.

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2. (Previously Presented) The group work control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tool executing section executes an application program for use in conducting said work items according to a tool executing file which contains necessary tool information.

3. (Previously Presented) The group work control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein

said group work cooperation section is provided with a function of displaying guide information about working to be conducted by a user when conducting said respective work items corresponding to said work steps.

4. (Previously Presented) The group work control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said file generator has a function of registering the works of a project and a function of altering a template file which is provided corresponding to said works of the project and which contains a standard work time.

5. (Original) The group work control system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a logic operation device which is configured to judge whether or not previous works have been finished in advance of said work items as provided; and

a setup device which is configured to prepare tools required for next work items when the previous works have been finished.

6. (Original) The group work control system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a file updating device which is configured to update said schedule file when it is confirmed that a user has completed a work item.

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7. (Currently Amended) A group work control method for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps for developing semiconductor devices through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line, said group work control method comprising:

generating a schedule file in which a schedule of said work steps is written;

storing said schedule file in a database accessible through said network; and

displaying work items to be conducted in the respective work steps based on the basis of said schedule file;

judging whether or not previous works of the displayed work items have been finished;

displaying an alternative work flow if the previous works have not yet been finished;

accessing a predetermined storage device and executing working tools required for the work items if the previous works have been finished; and

displaying a guide to the respective works and application programs.

8. (Previously Presented) The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

storing a tool executing file which contains necessary tool information for an application program used to conduct said work items;

obtaining said tool executing file in response to selection by a user; and executing said application program by executing said tool executing file.

9. (Original) The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

displaying guide information about working to be conducted by a user when conducting said respective work items corresponding to said work steps.

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10. (Previously Presented) The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising, when said schedule file is generated,
registering a development project;
obtaining a template file which is provided corresponding to said project and which contains a standard work time; and
altering said template file when required.

11. (Original) The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

judging whether or not previous works have been finished in advance of said work items as displayed; and
preparing execution of tools required for the next work items when the previous works have been finished.

12. (Original) The group work control method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

updating said schedule file when it is confirmed that a user has completed a work item.

13. (Currently Amended) A work control program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program logic stored therein for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps for developing semiconductor devices through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line by the use of a template file which contains a standard work time, wherein said computer program logic comprises:

amending a template file by registering a start-up date of said work steps in a calendar file;

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generating a schedule file containing a day's program of said work steps according to the template file as amended; and

storing said schedule file in a database accessible through said network;

displaying work items to be conducted in the respective work steps based on said schedule file;

judging whether or not the previous works of the displayed work items have been finished;

displaying an alternative work flow if the previous works have not yet been finished;

accessing a predetermined storage device and executing working tools required for the work items if the previous works have been finished; and

displaying a guide to the respective works and application programs.

14. (Currently Amended) A work control program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program logic stored therein for controlling a work having a plurality of work steps for developing semiconductor devices through a network of terminals connected to each other by a communication line, wherein said computer program logic comprises:

obtaining a development project as registered in said network;

determining whether or not a schedule file as prepared corresponding to said development project is updated;

obtaining the latest schedule file as updated when said schedule file is updated; and

displaying the latest schedule file as obtained in the form of a flowchart;

displaying work items to be conducted in the respective work steps based on the latest schedule file;

judging whether or not the previous works of the displayed work items have been finished;

displaying an alternative work flow if the previous works have not yet been finished;

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accessing a predetermined storage device and executing working tools required for the work items if the previous works have been finished; and

displaying a guide to the respective works and application programs.